

until CMS develops provider-specific standards. Allow CMS to waive physician accreditation if the agency determines they are subject to other mandatory quality requirements.

Establish a separate ombudsman within CMS to handle supplier and beneficiary issues related to the competitive bidding program.

OTHER CHANGES

Exclude complex rehabilitation wheelchairs, and related accessories when furnished with such wheelchairs, from competitive bidding.

Exclude negative pressure wound therapy from Round 1 and require CMS to evaluate how these items are coded and paid.

Exclude Puerto Rico from Round 1 re-bidding (did not receive enough valid bids in original Round 1 for CMS to award any contracts).

Allow physicians and other treating practitioners to supply "off-the-shelf orthotics" to their patients without being awarded competitive bidding contracts.

Allow hospitals in bidding areas to supply the same DMEPOS items that physicians and other practitioners will be able to supply (those that are considered an integral part of professional services) without being awarded contracts for those items.

Ensure that podiatrists and other similar practitioners can prescribe DMEPOS items by using broader definition of physician in Social Security Act. (This relates to a drafting error in MMA that pointed to the wrong definition of physician in the Social Security Act when requiring face-to-face examination in order to prescribe DMEPOS items.)

Delay mandated GAO report to coincide with delay to Round 1 and expand scope of report.

Provides CMS implementation funding of \$120 million.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MARVIN HIRSCHBERG

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Marvin Hirschberg, and in recognition of a life dedicated to his country, community and family.

Marvin Hirschberg, a resident of Olmsted Falls since 1969, has a multifaceted and rich history of public service. He earned both his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Mechanical Engineering from the City College of New York in 1951 and from Case Institute of Technology in 1958. Marvin worked as a research scientist at NASA for forty-two years until his retirement in 1994. Despite his retirement from full-time work, he continued to be an active volunteer at NASA and in the Greater Cleveland Area. His dedication to the environment and to the Olmsted Falls community earned him recognition as Olmsted Falls Citizen of the Year in 1998. Marvin was imperative in initiating the city's recycling program and served on the Environmental Protection Board. He and his wife, Ann, worked together mentoring students through the American Field Service (AFS), a program which enables resident high school seniors to study abroad and students from around the world to study in Olmsted Falls.

Marvin was also a key member of the Olmsted Falls Airport Committee. He applied

his knowledge as a NASA engineer to the civic efforts of Olmsted Falls residents to exercise oversight of the City of Cleveland's airport planning. As a result of his knowledge and research on sound, his dogged pursuit of a better way of planning airport expansions, and his dedication to citizenship as a resident and leader in his community, Marvin helped make Olmsted Falls a quieter place and helped make the City of Cleveland and Hopkins International Airport a better neighbor.

Mr. Hirschberg is survived by his loving wife, Ann, his children, Leslie Vickery, Eric and Lora Hirschberg, and his nine grandchildren; Daniel and Emily Olah, Benjamin and Samuel Vickery, Adam, Claire, and Valerie Hirschberg, and Eva and Alice Nowell.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in celebrating the life of Marvin Hirschberg, who committed his life to serving his country, community and family.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to note that I would have voted in favor of both the Motion to Refer H. Res. 1258 to the Committee on the Judiciary (Roll. No. 401) and H. Res. 1235 (Roll No. 402). I was obligated to leave the House floor before the close of votes in order to speak with several important witnesses and supporters just prior to a committee hearing that was scheduled to commence immediately after that series of votes.

H.R. 6229 MAYOR WILLIAM "BILL" SANDBERG POST OFFICE

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I have the pleasure of introducing H.R. 6229, legislation to name the Post Office located at 2523 7th Avenue East in North Saint Paul after Mayor William "Bill" Sandberg, the longtime Mayor of North Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Bill Sandberg was born in 1932 in the Selby-Grand neighborhood of Saint Paul. His family later moved to North Saint Paul, where he lived the remainder of his life. He graduated from North Saint Paul High School in 1950 and the University of Minnesota in 1954. After serving in the Army in the 1950s, Bill joined the family business, Sandberg Funeral Home in North St. Paul as funeral director. He later served as an associate of Johnson-Peterson Funeral Home of St. Paul and White Bear Lake and was active in the Minnesota Funeral Directors Association and a Heritage Club member of the National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA). Throughout his career, Bill was a well respected business owner and a leader in the small business community.

Bill Sandberg was first elected Mayor of North Saint Paul in 1978, reelected for seven more terms, and served with honor and distinction until his passing on April 20, 2008.

Throughout his 30 year career as Mayor, he brought people together to solve divisive issues such as the reconstruction of Highway 36 because he always put public service, common sense, and the citizens of North Saint Paul first. As a man of strong religious faith, Bill organized Mayor's Prayer Breakfasts where people of all faiths could come together to celebrate community and support one another.

I want to thank the entire Minnesota Delegation for cosponsoring this legislation that pays tribute to a dedicated public servant, wonderful human being, and dear friend and mentor. Those of us who knew Bill also know well his loving devotion to his wife Dolores, daughter Karen, and grandchildren Carolyn and William.

EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT HIV/ AIDS EPIDEMICS IN THE CARIB- BEAN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my concern about the increasing rate of HIV/AIDS infections in the Caribbean.

Caribbean nations are the areas of the highest occurrence of the HIV/AIDS disease. United Nations reports that Haiti, Belize, Barbados, the Bahamas and other neighboring countries have the prevalence ratio which comes second only after the sub-Sahara region. The developing countries are hit hardest by these epidemics, which are devastating families, labor forces and economies. Undoubtedly, substantial progress has been made in preventing and treating the disease. Many people in the Caribbean are provided with life-prolonging anti-viral medications and therapies. A growing number of pregnant women are receiving drugs that prevent passing the viruses from mother to child during pregnancy and child-labor. Still, many more people are urgently in need of medications to keep them alive. In 2007, nearly 2.5 million people were newly infected, mainly from the Caribbean and sub-Sahara regions. Developing countries work hard on providing the poor with life-saving medications. It is crucial that they continue such important work.

Universal access and reduced cost of disease-fighting drugs remain the main issues in dealing with the HIV/AIDS epidemic. I hope that many more Americans are concerned about the spread of the HIV/AIDS disease and join in the struggle against the deadly virus.

RECOGNIZING EMERGENCY MAN- AGERS IN BARTHOLOMEW COUN- TY

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and recognize the extraordinary contributions of emergency management, disaster response, and recovery personnel as well as elected officials and community leaders in my district devastated by the recent severe weather in Indiana.

I wish particularly to honor these outstanding individuals in Bartholomew County: 1. Dennis Moats, Director, Emergency Management Agency; 2. Mark Gorbett, Sheriff; 3. Jim Bickel, CEO, Columbus Regional Hospital; and 4. Fred Armstrong, Mayor, City of Columbus.

These areas suffered greatly from tornadoes, heavy rains and flooding, creating a catastrophe that awaits a presidential response. But the catastrophe did not await the efforts of these individuals. And in response, they went above and beyond the call of duty, showing great poise while saving many lives and serving the people of their communities.

I also commend Governor Mitch Daniels and the many state government authorities who have been so instrumental in leading the state through this crisis. I strongly support Indiana's three requests for federal aid and renew my request to the President of the United States, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to act promptly, make assessments, and declare an expedited major disaster for all 44 counties in the State of Indiana affected by the severe weather.

We need to speed the necessary relief to the families who have fallen victim to Mother Nature's fury and extend full federal assistance to Hoosier families, businesses and farms to include direct assistance to individuals, Small Business Administration Disaster Loans and emergency assistance loans from the Farm Service Agency.

Madam Speaker, Hoosier families and communities are hurting and need to know that help is on the way. I urge this Administration and my colleagues to focus their attention on this urgent Midwestern need for emergency relief.

TRIBUTE TO BUNYAN BRYANT

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Bunyan Bryant, Ph.D., for winning the 2008 Helen and William G. Milliken Distinguished Service Award, from the Michigan Environmental Council, on May 28, 2008.

Dr. Bryant is a national leader in the field of environmental justice. His work helped not only to identify the pressing need to actively protect our environmental resources, but it also helped to show the glaring disparities in the communities affected by such harm. He is the founder and director of the Environmental Justice Initiative at the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and serves as an Arthur F. Thurnau Professor at the school.

Bunyan Bryant is a pioneering figure in the Environmental Justice movement. His work helped to show the correlations between adverse environmental impacts and the disproportionate affect they have on the lives of the poor and minorities. This relationship and the need to actively address such disparities, forms the bedrock of the Environmental Justice movement.

Dr. Bryant has been more than just a strong voice for justice and the environment. He has been and continues to be a teacher, guide and mentor for his students. In his role as a

professor he has touched thousands of lives. His work has helped to shape the next generation of environmental leaders. Bunyan possesses a unique ability to connect with students individually and help them understand the difference their efforts will make.

I salute Dr. Bunyan Bryant for winning the 2008 Milliken Award. This honor is given to those who have demonstrated a lifelong commitment to the environmental movement and its goals of improving our world through action. Dr. Bryant is certainly worthy of this recognition and I appreciate any chance to recognize him. I honor Dr. Bryant for his tremendous efforts and a lifetime of sacrifice and dedication to a noble cause. I thank him for all that he has done.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONGRESSIONAL CLUB

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize the 100th Anniversary of The Congressional Club; the only club in the world established by an act of Congress. Since its founding in 1908, The Congressional Club has provided a nonpartisan setting for the spouses of Members of Congress to form lasting friendships and foster bipartisan collaboration on several projects benefiting our children and communities.

Each year, The Congressional Club hosts the First Lady of the United States for a luncheon and donates the proceeds to a selected charity. The First Lady's Luncheon is the Club's largest and most prestigious event of the year. My wife Julie is currently serving as 3rd Vice President of The Congressional Club and had the privilege of serving as Co-Chair of the luncheon this year, which hosted 1,800 guests including distinguished Members of the House and Senate, the President's Cabinet, and the spouses of the Supreme Court Justices. In honor of First Lady Laura Bush, the Club donated the proceeds from the 2008 luncheon to Ford's Theater; one of the most visited sites in our Nation's capital, celebrating the life and legacy of our 16th President Abraham Lincoln. Past recipients of the Club's charitable giving include mentoring programs, literacy programs, child care centers, and domestic shelters.

Over the past 100 years, The Congressional Club has been a home away from home for many of its members. The friendships made and memories shared will forever be cherished, and the community forever grateful for the kindness and generosity of The Congressional Club.

Congratulations to all members of The Congressional Club on 100 years of outstanding service and friendship to our Nation, and may your next 100 years be as memorable and rewarding as the first.

TRIBUTE TO MONICA BROWN

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, this Saturday the city of Lake Jackson, Texas, will celebrate the accomplishments of United States Army Specialist Monica Brown, who, at the age of 19, has already earned herself a place in the pantheon of Texas military heroes.

Specialist Brown was recently awarded the Silver Star, the nation's third highest medal of valor, because of her heroic actions in Afghanistan. Specialist Brown is only the second woman to receive the Silver Star since World War II.

On April 25, 2007, Specialist Brown was part of a four-vehicle convoy patrolling near Jani Kheil in the eastern province of Paktia when a bomb struck one of the vehicles. Upon seeing that her comrades needed help, Specialist Brown put aside concerns for her own safety and ran through insurgent gunfire and mortars to protect the wounded soldiers. Specialist Brown used her body to shield five injured soldiers as she administered aid and then dragged each of them 100 meters away to safety.

I am pleased to take this opportunity to salute U.S. Army Specialist Monica Brown and let her know how proud I, and all of Lake Jackson, are of her heroism. I urge all my colleagues, and all Americans, to join me in saluting Monica Brown and all the brave men and women serving in Afghanistan and Iraq.

RECOGNIZING STEVE BARR, AUTHOR OF THE WASHINGTON POST'S FEDERAL DIARY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, this Friday an esteemed member of the Washington press corps—our friend, Steve Barr—will conclude his service as the author of the Washington Post's Federal Diary. For 29 years, Steve has served our region as a reporter with the Washington Post, and for the last 8 years he has written the Post's Federal Diary column, covering workplace issues within the three branches of the Federal government.

As someone who represents 58,000 Federal workers, I am especially grateful for Steve's work to make the Federal Diary a highly-valuable resource on the issues of greatest importance to our nation's civil service employees. For those of us monitoring the daily developments affecting our federal workforce, Steve's column has been required reading.

Madam Speaker, as we are well aware, our federal workforce is one of the best in the world, and in Steve, we could not have asked for anyone who recognizes that more. The quality of his work is a mark of the great pride and pleasure he so clearly possesses in his service to our public service workers. So while Steve's departure marks the end of an era at the Post's Federal Diary, I assure you that his contributions will long be remembered. I wish him the best in his future endeavors.